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L1: Entry 2 of 2

File: USPT

Mar 16, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5884278

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5884278 A

TITLE: Retail store and method employing multiple network interfaces at each cash register, and receiving signals from portable cards at each cash register

DATE-ISSUED: March 16, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Powell; Ken R.	Athens	GA	30604	

APPL-NO: 08/799688 [PALM]

DATE FILED: February 11, 1997

INT-CL-ISSUED: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/14; 235/375, 235/383

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/14; 235/375, 235/383

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 705/14, 235/375, 235/383

See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

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	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4674041</u>	June 1987	Lemon et al.	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4882675</u>	November 1989	Nichtberger et al.	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5047614</u>	September 1991	Bianco	235/385
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5192854</u>	March 1993	Counts	235/375
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5256863</u>	October 1993	Ferguson et al.	380/24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5471669</u>	November 1995	Lidman	235/383
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5490060</u>	February 1996	Malec et al.	705/10

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

UPC Coupon Code Guidelines Manual, reprinted Oct. 1994, Uniform Code Council, Inc.,

Dayton, Ohio

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Voeltz; Emanuel Todd

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Alvarez; Raquel

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Jackson; Jerome D.

ABSTRACT:

A computer network for a retail store. The computer network collects coupon redemption information from a plurality of cash registers and periodically sends the redemption information to a market research center, allowing the correlation of coupon redemptions with customer demographic data. Each cash register includes a special computer for coupon redemption compilation. The special computer interfaces to conventional cash register computer hardware without requiring a substantial change to cash register computer software.

11 Claims, 35 Drawing figures

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L1: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Sep 24, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6456980

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6456980 B1

TITLE: Transaction systems and methods sending product identification signals to two processors in each register station

DATE-ISSUED: September 24, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Powell; Ken R.	Athens	GA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
SoftCard Systems, Inc.	Watkinsville	GA			02

APPL-NO: 09/198550 [PALM]

DATE FILED: November 23, 1998

PARENT-CASE:

This Application is a Continuation of application Ser. No. 08/799,688 now U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,278 KEN R. POWELL filed Feb. 11, 1997 for RETAIL STORE AND METHOD EMPLOYING MULTIPLE NETWORK INTERFACES AT EACH CASH REGISTER, AND RECEIVING SIGNALS FROM PORTABLE CARDS AT EACH CASH REGISTER, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

INT-CL-ISSUED: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/14; 705/1, 705/10, 705/16, 705/400, 235/375, 235/378, 235/383, 235/2, 700/231

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/14; 235/2, 235/375, 235/378, 235/383, 700/231, 705/1, 705/10, 705/16, 705/400

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 705/14, 705/1, 705/10, 705/16, 705/30, 705/400, 235/375, 235/383, 700/231

See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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PAT-NO

ISSUE-DATE

PATENTEE-NAME

US-CL

4674041

June 1987

Lemon et al.

705/14

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4882675</u>	November 1989	Nichtberger et al.	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5047614</u>	September 1991	Bianco	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5192854</u>	March 1993	Counts	235/375
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5256863</u>	October 1993	Ferguson et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5471669</u>	November 1995	Lidman	235/383
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5490060</u>	February 1996	Malec et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5708782</u>	January 1998	Larson et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5727153</u>	March 1998	Powell	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5774868</u>	June 1998	Cragun et al.	705/10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5857175</u>	January 1999	Day et al.	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5884278</u>	March 1999	Powell	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5956694</u>	September 1999	Powell	705/14
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6055509</u>	April 2000	Powell	705/14

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Cents-off coupons: A wave of the instant future?, Ats & crafts retailer, p 8, Jan. 1994.*

Peter Fajkowski, Method and apparatus for coupon management and redemption, PCT/WO US9719246, entire document, 1997.*

UPC Coupon Code Guidelines Manual, reprinted Oct. 1994, Uniform Code Council, Inc., Dayton, Ohio.

ART-UNIT: 2161

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Voeltz; Emanuel Todd

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Alvarez; Raquel

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Jackson; Jerome D.

ABSTRACT:

A store system for a commercial system with multiple products. The store system includes multiple register stations. Each register station includes a bar code reader that generates a first signal identifying a product selected by a customer, a register computer, and a cable that transfers the first signal to the register computer. Each register station is associated with a respective second computer that sends a second signal to the register computer. A cable transfers the first signal to the second computer. The register computer includes logic that determines a total amount due from the customer, by receiving the first and second signals. In an exemplary embodiment, the second computer interfaces to a customer card that stores discount information.

36 Claims, 35 Drawing figures

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